

THE PROCESS OF FORMING THE NORTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE IN 1949–1955

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Today NATO, as before, embodies the military power of the Western European and American alliance. Initially, this alliance, according to the NATO Secretary General in 2009-2014 Anders Fogh Rasmussen was created by twelve countries «on both sides of the Atlantic, who united to defend their freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law» [1]. Despite the allied relations during the war, Western countries could not allow the spread of socialism and created a full-fledged military bloc. In fact, this can be called preparation for a new war, which the former allies began to conduct, despite the war that had just ended.

The goal is to trace the process of unification of Western European states and the United States into a military-political bloc in 1949-1955.

Material and methods. To write this work, there were used digitized texts of international treaties presented on the official website of NATO: the Brussels Treaty, the North Atlantic Treaty, the protocols on the accession of Greece and Turkey. From a pro-Soviet perspective, this issue is considered in the five-volume "History of Diplomacy" edited by A.A. Gromyko. A detailed consideration of this issue is given in the modern works of R.S. Airiyan, P.G. Lukyanova, O.G. Lekarenko. The position of the West is presented in an interview with A. Rasmussen. The study of the issue was conducted using general scientific methods (analysis, synthesis, comparison, generalization, deductive method, logical method) and special historical (search, descriptive method and method of historical retrospection).

Findings and their discussion. The prerequisites for the creation of a military alliance were formed even before the outbreak of World War II, when the world was on the verge of a new redrawing of borders. There are two actual reasons for the registration of the union. The first of them was declared a priority task for the post-war world order - to prevent a new militarization of the defeated and disarmed Germany. The second reason is practically the main one: the military alliance of Western states had to resist the threat from the USSR and create a force in Europe, ideally superior to the forces of the socialist camp.

In this relation, on March 17, 1948 the so-called Brussels Treaty was concluded, which established the Western European Union (WEU). The agreement was based on Article 51 of the UN Charter, which prescribes «the inalienable rights to individual or collective self-defense in the event of an armed attack on

a Member of the United Nations ...» [9]. The proximity and strengthening of the USSR inspired fears that sooner or later such an attack could be committed.

The Treaty "On Economic, Social and Cultural Cooperation and Collective Self-Defense" was signed in Brussels by representatives of Belgium, France and the French Union (former French colonies), Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Great Britain. In the preface, the agreeing parties pledged to respect all human rights established by UN agreements, create a strong economic base for all European countries and gradually join more and more countries to the union in order to strengthen historically existing and newly created ties. The agreement provided for the creation of a common social security system, the achievement of economic stability in the region and cultural interaction between the sides. Actions contributing to the stabilization of the situation in the event of military aggression against one of the participating countries were called justified and necessary. Each of the sides could invite another State to join the treaty on the terms agreed by the sides. After a period of fifty years, it was possible to leave the union safely. Brussels became the center for joint meetings [4].

Originally, the agreement did not contain any additional agreements on defense and military cooperation. On June 11, 1948 the so-called «Vandenberg Resolution» was adopted at the 2nd session of the 80th US Congress. The resolution put an end to the isolation of the United States and declared the readiness of the states to join military alliances outside the American continent [5, p. 14]. Since the United States was one of the strongest states at that time, the declaration allowed them to become the head of European armament.

On April 4, 1949 the North Atlantic Pact was signed in Washington, which entered into force only on August 24. It was based on the UN Charter and previously concluded agreements of European states. The main objectives of the contracting parties were identified as the elimination of contradictions in the economic interaction of the region and mutual support of regional weapons against aggression by opposing states. The right to decide what to consider aggression was transferred to the UN Security Council. A Council was established to make general decisions within the framework of the treaty. The original 1949 treaty was signed by the USA, Great Britain, France, Canada, Italy, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Portugal [3]. Unlike the Brussels Treaty, this time the ratification documents were transferred for storage in Washington. In essence, the treaty legalized the comprehensive armament of the participating countries, contrasting them with the emerging Eastern Bloc.

On October 22, 1951 at the invitation of the United States, a Protocol on the Accession of Greece and Turkey was added to the North Atlantic Treaty [2].

Originally, NATO was planned as a supranational organization designed to defend the common interests of international security, but in fact it has developed as an intergovernmental one. Despite the declared openness and regional character, in 1954 The NATO Council denied the Soviet Union its readiness to

join the Alliance, justifying the refusal by saying that «NATO is an association of equally thinking states» [8, p. 15].

From January 25 to February 18, 1954 a meeting of foreign ministers of four powers was held in Berlin: the USA, the USSR, Great Britain and France [6, p. 407]. It discussed issues of ensuring security in Europe, the settlement of the German issue and the possible establishment of relations between the two blocs. Due to the contradictions on this issue and the disagreements of the participating states, the meeting did not come to a single solution. After its completion, the policy of Western countries was aimed at legalizing the militarization of Germany and its early inclusion in the Alliance.

The sovereignty of the FRG received its final formalization at conferences in Paris on October 19 and 23, 1954. At the same time, on October 20-23, a NATO meeting was held, at which an official invitation was sent to chancellor K. Adenauer to join the alliance. On May 5, 1955 Germany received the official status of a sovereign power and became a full member of the Alliance [7, p. 98].

Conclusion. Thus, by agreeing, signing and ratifying the Brussels Treaty, «the Vandenberg Resolution», the North Atlantic Treaty, the protocols on the accession of Greece and Turkey, as well as the entry of Germany into NATO in 1955 by the mid-1950s. The North Atlantic bloc was designed as a military-political union to a greater extent and a trade-economic union to a lesser extent of most European states. This allowed the Western Bloc to carry out effective measures to militarize the region.

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